

[Songs and Yells of Steel Workers]

[?]

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Title Songs and yells of steel workers of South Chicago

Place of origin Chicago, Illinois Date 5/18/39

Library of Congress

Project worker Hilda Polacheck

Project editor

Remarks

W3656 [??]

Forms to be Filled out for Each Interview

CHICAGO FOLKSTUFF

FORM A

Circumstances of Interview

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

No. Words

May 26, 1939

STATE Illinois

NAME OF WORKER Hilda Polacheck

ADDRESS 1410 East 57th Street

DATE May 18, 1939

SUBJECT Songs and yells of Steel workers of South Chicago

Library of Congress

1. Date and time of interview -

May 16, 1939, 3:00 P.M.

2. Place of interview -

Home of a steel worker

3. Name and address of informant -

William and Ida Rinas, 10616 Greenbay Avenue

4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant. -

Mrs. Stewart, 1761 East 72nd Street

5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

The living room of a small cottage about one and one half miles from The Republic Steel Mills.. The room was furnished with a large, clumsy leather couch and two large leather chairs. There was a radio and desk in the room beside the pieces numerated. There were lace curtains hanging.

FORM B

Personal History of Informant

CHICAGO FOLKSTUFF

FOLKLORE

Library of Congress

CHICAGO

No. Words

STATE Illinois

NAME OF WORKER Hilda Polacheck

ADDRESS 1410 East 57th Street

DATE May 18, 1939

SUBJECT Songs and yells of Steel workers

NAME OF INFORMANTS - Ida and William Rinas

1. Ancestry - German

2. Place and date of birth-

Dortmund

3. Family -

Three children

4. Places lived in, with dates- Lived in Dortmund, Germany till 1922. Then came to Chicago and has been living here ever since.

5. Education, with dates -

6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates

Housewife

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7. Special skills and interests -

Interested in Women's Auxiliary of Lodge #1303.

8. Community and religious activities

9. Description of informant - Woman about six feet tall. Blond hair and blue eyes.

10. Other Points gained in interview -

The songs and yells were made up by the men, women and children during the steel strike of 1937.

FORM C

Text of Interview (Unedited)

CHICAGO FOLKSTUFF

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

No. Words

STATE Illinois

NAME OF WORKER Hilda Polacheck

ADDRESS 1410 East 57th Street

DATE May 18, 1939

SUBJECT Labor songs and yells of Steel Workers

Library of Congress

NAME OF INFORMANT Ida Rinas

Steel workers wives and mothers it's time to take your stand
A fighting spirit triumphs, and
it's spreading through the land. We can win without a battle by our joining hand in hand,
For the union makes us strong

We are the men who make the steel the iron and the tin
From ore to rail and billet — out
of blood and bone and skin, But no more need we labor until we grow gaunt and thin,
For the union makes us strong. We have watched a thousand furnaces grow dark and start to
glow, Yet we live in fear of hearing that our time has come to go, Gut now we're organizing
in the surging C. I. O. For the union makes us strong.

We want a union contract Signed on the dotted line. We'll march until we get it
On the union picket line.

1

(Tune: Hinky Dinky Parlez Vous)

When a scab dies he goes to hell, Parlez vous. When a scab dies he goes to hell, Parlez
vous. When a scab dies he goes to hell The rats and skunks all ring the bell, Hinky dinky
parlez vous. The boss is shaking at the knees, Parlez vous. The boss in shaking at the
knees, Parlez vous. The boss is shaking at the knees, He's shaking in his B.V.D's. Hinky
dinky parlez vous.

(Tune: "Over There")

C. I. O. — C. I. O. Here we go, we will grow, that we know, For our ranks are stronger,
We're weak no longer We'll win our fight against the foe, C. I. O. — C. I. O. In the mills, in
the shops, mines below, We know what's wise now, we'll organize now Into one big union
The C. I. O.

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(Tune: Polly Wolly Doodle)

To win our strike and our demands Come and picket on the picket line, In one strong union we'll join hands Come and picket on the picket line. On the line, On the line Come and picket on the picket line, We will shout and yell and fight like hell Come and picket on the picket line. 2 If you've never spent a night in jail, Come and picket on the picket line. You will be invited without fail, Come and picket on the picket line. If you don't like scabs and thugs and stools, Come and picket on the picket line, For you show our boss that the worker rules, When you picket on the picket line.

(Tune: "Put On Your Old Gray Bonnet")

Put on your old gray bonnet With your Union button on it, And we don't care what the bosses say, We'll be in clover when the strike is over, And we get a Union pay. Put on your old gray bonnet, With your Union button on it, And we don't care what the bosses say, If you love your honey, You'll go out and make some money, And bring home Union pay.

(To the tune of: "Ach du Lieber Augustine")

The more we get together, together, together, The more we get together, the happier we'll be. For your friends are my friends, And my friends are your friends, The more we get together the happier we'll be.

(To the tune of: "Jingle Bells")

C. I. O., C. I. O. Hear the union cry, Everyone begins to see, We mean to do or die. 3 C. I. O., C. I. O. Sing it good and loud, Union everyone of us We're free and brave and proud.